

Testimony
Appropriations Committee
Budget Hearing
February 15, 2023
In support of funding for Higher Education

Joelle Fishman, Chair, Connecticut Communist Party USA

Sen Osten, Rep Walker, and members of the Committee,

My name is Joelle Fishman, I live in New Haven, and I am testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Communist Party and with Recovery for All in favor of increased funding for higher education in our state.

Higher public education should be available and accessible to every student who wants to pursue their dreams.

But right now working class young people who are determined and struggling to get their education are being pushed to the limit with student loans and tuition increases.

Please listen to these young people as they demand the right to study and learn. The budget for our state should reflect their hopes and dreams.

Connecticut has one of the highest student loan debts in the entire country. At the same time Connecticut has one of the greatest concentrations of wealth.

Instead of tuition increases, steps should be taken so tuition is free for higher public education. The right to higher public education should not depend on personal wealth or where you live.

During the height of the pandemic widening racial and economic inequalities were exposed. Coming out of the pandemic, it is incumbent that the budget reflect new priorities to achieve racial and economic equity at every level including increased financial support for higher public education.

We have the resources. Equity requires revenue. I urge you to fund our future with a budget that increases funding for higher public education and all human needs.